

October 17, 2016
Parent Council Meeting Minutes

Co-Chairs: Terry Koo, David Tan

1. Review of last month's minutes – Approved.

2. **Student Council Report** Student Council Representatives
 - 2 representatives from SAC summarized the students from Sept and Oct.
 - Spirit Week was very successful and included an assembly where clubs/leadership groups presented videos and skits to raise awareness of what the group does.
 - A suggestion was made to make these videos available on the website for parents.
 - Club Carousel was very well attended and a record number of grade 9 students signed up for clubs.
 - The grade 9 bbq took place indoors due to weather, but was still a lot of fun for the students
 - Halloween dance is coming up on Oct. 28. Takes place at the school and ends at 10:00 pm. Tickets are \$3 (or 4 for \$10).

3. **Community Report** Sophia Chan, TCCC
 - Parent and Student Community Programs are available at the Gibson Centre.
 - There are Saturday tutoring sessions available. Students should register ahead of time so that tutors can be available for particular subjects. This program is called the "Youth Success Initiatives" and runs from 10:00 am to 1:00 p.m. It is free of charge
 - On Thursday evenings from 4:00 to 8:00 youth can drop in to play sports, work on homework, etc. Dinner is provided.
 - The Gibson Centre also has a food bank and community members are encouraged to let others know about this support.

4. **Principal's Report** Sandy Kaskens
 - Due to increased enrolment, Bethune received an additional allocation for classes to be created. Additional classes were created at the grade 9 and 10 level, in Math and Science. Some student timetables were changed as a result, but the class sizes are now much better.
 - Bethune will hold an assembly on November 11 for Remembrance Day. Parents are welcome to attend. Assemblies will be at 10:00 and 11:00.
 - Overview of Director John Malloy's Vision for Learning: The new direction/structure of the TDSB was summarized. There are 4 learning centres, each with an executive superintendent and 7 school superintendents. The 3 areas of focus for all schools: Equity, Achievement, Well-Being. Bethune will identify an area of need for each of these. To date, staff discussions have identified the following:
 - ✓ Achievement: Data shows that students are doing very well; our focus will be on how we can deepen their learning through problem-based learning, and critical thinking, and student voice.

- ✓ Well-Being: Data shows student feel safe, and have a strong sense of belonging; our focus will be on stress-management and self-advocacy (voice); and balance.
- ✓ Equity: Will look more closely at language and culture of our students and explore how that impacts how we teach them and how this presents challenges to students and staff to break through language and culture as potential barriers. Will also look more closely at Aboriginal Education.

5. Guidance Items

Colin Ng

- a. Grade 9 Class visits
 - b. College Fair – Oct. 17 + 18, www.ocif.ca; Students are encouraged to attend during the evening. Parents can excuse their son/daughter to attend during the day, but this is not a supervised school field trip.
 - c. University Information Night – Wed. Oct. 19 @ 6:30pm in Cafeteria. All parents and students are encouraged to attend. Very informative for any grade level. Very informative for parents to know what to expect and to support their son/daughter in the “research” stage of post-secondary planning, as well as the application process.
 - d. University sessions continue – take place at lunch. All students are welcome to attend.
 - e. Facebook – www.facebook.com/BethuneGuidance
 - f. Twitter - @BethuneGuidance
 - g. Grade 8 Parent Information Night – Nov 17 @ 6:45pm
 - h. Edutransport – will be at the school during lunch on November 17. Offers a variety of travel opportunities for students during the March Break and Summer, while getting high school credits.
6. **PIAC (Parent Involvement Advisory Committee)** – 10th Annual Parent Involvement Makes a Difference Conference. Takes place at Earl Haig Secondary School on Saturday, November 19 from 8:00 am to 3:45 pm. Includes workshops and an information Marketplace. Register at www.tdsb.on.ca/parentconference. Child-minding, interpretation and Bussing available through registration. For more information contact 416-395-4808
7. **School Statement of Needs:** Each year the SSON (School Statement of Needs) is prepared by the co-chairs, in consultation with the parent council. The previous year’s SSON was reviewed. Parents felt that it did not require further revision.
8. **Selection of Co-Chairs for 2016/17 school year:** No one expressed an interest in being considered for Co-Chairs for the 2016-17 school year. Both Terry Koo and David Tan agreed to remain in the role if no one else comes forward this week.
9. **Other Topics/Issues:**
- a. Parents appreciated the system phone messages for reminders and alerts when students are absent. Also appreciated the newsletter and felt that the school does an excellent job at communicating and reaching out to parents.
 - b. An update regarding the Skateboard Park: Counsellor Karygiannis had a community consultation meeting at Bethune on September 22. The plans for the park are progressing and will involve a play area for children, and a low-profile skate park. There was also a suggestion at the meeting to include something for adults/seniors.

Counsellor Karygiannis hopes to have the project completed within 2 years. There were architects and city personnel, as well as some residents at this meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for October 25 at Bethune beginning at 6:30 on,

- c. Take your Kids to Work Day: Will be taking place on November 2. Forms will go out this week for students to get signed by their parents. All grade 9 students are encouraged to participate. Those who do not participate are expected to be in school/classes.